



## Curry Village Employee Housing

### What is this project about?

This project consists of an action called for in the *Yosemite Valley Plan*. It includes the design and construction of new employee housing and related facilities to accommodate 217 concession employees in the area west of Curry Village in Yosemite Valley. This housing will replace concessioner units lost at several locations in the Valley during the 1997 flood.

The scope of the concessioner employee housing project includes providing parking and access, an employee wellness center, concessioner housing and management offices, housing-related maintenance and storage facilities, and postal facilities to serve the residents of the new housing area. The housing complex will be designed in accordance with the character of the area, with particular focus on the adjacent Curry Village Historic District. Architectural guidelines for the Curry Village area are being prepared under a separate project; although not yet complete, architects have applied the draft guidelines to their designs for Curry Village housing. Additionally, this project is being coordinated with the Yosemite Lodge Area Redevelopment, since new housing at Curry Village will replace temporary units placed at Yosemite Lodge after the 1997 flood.

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### What decisions have already been made?

The park originally reviewed three development concepts and presented these to the public for comment at several open houses in Yosemite Valley. The concept that was selected consists of 27 one- and two-story buildings scattered throughout the site. This concept was chosen because:

- The smaller one- or two-story buildings are more compatible with the character of the Curry Village Historic District.
- Smaller buildings will be able to “fit” between trees and boulders, thereby helping to minimize tree removal during construction.
- Smaller buildings will have a more residential feel rather than a dormitory-like atmosphere, providing a better living environment for employees.
- Smaller buildings will be less visually intrusive, particularly when seen from Southside Drive and from Glacier Point.

Included in the design will be an energy-efficient and environmentally-friendly heating and cooling system known as a *ground source heat pump*. The National Park Service is also planning to submit this project to the Environmental Protection Agency for an Energy Star certification. Energy Star is a government-backed program to help businesses and individuals protect the environment through superior energy efficiency.

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## What are the next steps?

Site preparation work began in the Fall of 2004 and resumed in the spring of 2005 with tree removal and grading.

Construction of the buildings began June 2005 and is underway, with foundation for the housing area being laid throughout the summer. This project will be ongoing over the next year and is expected to be completed by July 2006.

Revegetation and continued monitoring of the area will be ongoing for at least one year after construction is completed. All construction activities related to this project will be completed in accordance with the mitigation measures presented in the *Yosemite Valley Plan*.

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## How can I learn more about this project?

Add your name to the park's planning mailing list (to address/fax/email below) and receive the *Planning Update* newsletter as well as other planning- related notices. You can also submit your email address to receive Yosemite National Park's periodic electronic newsletter.

Mail: Superintendent  
Attn: Planning Mailing List  
P.O. Box 577  
Yosemite, CA 95389

Fax: 209/379- 1294

Email: Yose\_Planning@nps.gov

To learn more about this and other Yosemite construction projects visit Yosemite's planning website at [www.nps.gov/yose/planning/](http://www.nps.gov/yose/planning/) or contact Calvin Liu at 209/372- 0437.